

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END THE COMMERCIAL SEAL HUNT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter from Canadian Ambassador Michael Wilson in regards to H. Res. 427 the bill introduced by Mr. LANTOS from California urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

CANADIAN EMBASSY,  
Washington, DC, June 25, 2007.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,  
Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, 2170 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN,  
Ranking Member, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, B-360 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LANTOS AND RANKING MEMBER ROS-LEHTINEN: I am writing regarding House Resolution 427, urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt, scheduled for mark up by the Foreign Affairs Committee on Tuesday, June 26, 2007. As outlined below, Canada pursues a sustainable and humane harvest of the seal herds. In this context, I would ask that the Committee on Foreign Affairs reconsider proceeding with this resolution.

The Government of Canada takes its role as steward of the environment and wildlife seriously and is committed to the sustainable management of its renewable resources. The Canadian seal hunt is a sustainable, economically viable activity based on sound conservation principles.

Canada sets quotas at levels that ensure the health and abundance of seal herds. The harp seal population, approximately 5.8 million animals based on a 2004 survey, is nearly triple what it was in the 1970s. In no way can seals—and harp seals in particular—be considered “endangered species”. Fisheries and Oceans Canada manages the seal hunt and has put in place a five-year management plan for 2006–2010. In 2007 the total allowable catch was reduced considerably to ensure the resource remains sustainable.

The Canadian commercial quota is unrelated to groundfish stock levels. Several factors have contributed to the lack of recovery of Atlantic cod stocks, such as fishing effort, poor growth and physical condition of the fish, and environmental changes. In addition, there are many uncertainties in the estimates of the amount of fish consumed by seals.

The Government of Canada makes every effort to ensure the seal hunt is conducted in a safe and humane manner. The seal hunt is closely monitored and tightly regulated. Fisheries and Oceans Canada officers monitor catches, ensure humane harvesting practices, and enforce regulations and licence conditions. The hunting of harp seal pups (whitecoats) and hooded seal pups (bluebacks) is illegal—and has been since 1987. Penalties are substantial and can include court-imposed fines and orders to forfeit catches, gear, boats and licenses.

In September 2002 veterinarians from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) issued a Special Report on Animal Welfare and the Harp Seal Hunt in Atlantic Canada. In independent observations of the seal hunt, the study concluded that 98 percent of seals taken during the hunt were harvested in an acceptably humane manner, contrary to the reference in tile resolution. Harvesting methods used for the seal hunt have also been studied and approved by the Royal Commission on Seals and Sealing.

An Independent Veterinarians’ Working Group formed in 2005, with representatives from the United States and four other countries, made observations and recommendations to further improve management and hunting practices. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is currently working to adopt these and other recommendations including improved enforcement and sealer training. Neither of the above groups called for a ban on the hunt.

Seals are a valuable natural resource that provides 25–30 percent of an annual income to thousands of Canadians in many remote coastal communities. This is a significant income when average annual incomes may be only \$17,000USD a year and unemployment rates are far above the national average. Sealing and fishing are also time-honoured traditions that allow people to provide for their families through knowledge of the marine environment and hard work.

In light of this clarification on the sustainable management and humane harvest of the seal herds in Canada, I would ask that the Committee on Foreign Affairs reconsider whether proceeding with this resolution is warranted.

I have included a fact sheet that provides more information on the seal harvest in Canada. The Embassy staff remain available to meet with your staff to discuss these issues further.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL WILSON,  
Ambassador.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL ALBERTO GONZALES IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY RESOLUTION

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2007*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with several of my colleagues to introduce a resolution that would require that the Judiciary Committee initiate an impeachment investigation of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales. I have introduced this resolution only after careful consideration and exercising a great deal of caution.

Alexander Hamilton in Federalist Paper No. 66 stated, “the powers relating to impeachments are . . . an essential check in the hands of that body upon the encroachments of the executive.” The “encroachments” made by this Attorney General subvert several core constitutional values.

I believe that it is clear the Attorney General was involved in the decisions to fire several

U.S. Attorneys for not pursuing public corruption cases based on partisan political factors. I also believe that the Attorney General has made false or misleading statements to Congress in order to minimize his role in the warrantless surveillance program, the U.S. Attorney firings, and to otherwise obstruct congressional investigations.

Our judicial system must operate outside of the political process in order to preserve justice. The American people deserve an independent Justice Department that is not controlled by the political strategists at the White House. Gonzales’ lack of candor before Congress perverts and undermines the ability of Congress to trust assurances made by the executive branch and it also retards Congress’ ability to carry out its constitutionally mandated functions.

Based on the facts we know today, I believe that an investigation will reveal that the level of malfeasance of the Attorney General is impeachable. With the President showing no sign of replacing the Attorney General, Congress must assert itself and remove him from office. His removal is essential to preserve the strength of the Congress and to send the clear unambiguous message to future Attorneys General that the politicization of prosecutions and the U.S. Attorneys across the country is a repugnant degradation of the law.

### IN HONOR OF THE MONTEREY JAZZ FESTIVAL

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 31, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Monterey Jazz Festival, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary this September in remarkable style. The Monterey Jazz Festival is a nonprofit organization that provides year-round jazz education programs locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. The festival is famous for being the longest running jazz festival in the world and deserves recognition for its dedication to enabling the uniquely American form of music to remain alive in our community and country.

The Monterey Jazz Festival began as a dream for cofounders Jimmy Lyons and Ralph Gleason. In 1958, the dream finally became a reality with the commencement of the first Monterey Jazz Festival. The festival attracted many brilliant artists to the stage such as Dizzy Gillespie, Louis Armstrong, John Lewis, Shelly Manne, Gerry Mulligan, Art Farmer, Ernestine Anderson, Harry James, Max Roach and Billie Holiday. Ever since that initial festival, one full weekend in September is devoted to the Monterey Jazz Festival, which presents the best jazz performers in the world for a 3-day celebration. The Monterey Jazz Festival not only presents live performances, but it also features jazz conversations, panel discussions, workshops, exhibitions, clinics,

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